



Nebraska Weather and Crops

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Issue NE-CW5312

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Agricultural Summary: For the month of December 2012, unseasonably warm and dry weather the first half of the month was followed by rain and snow that brought some much needed moisture to the state, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. Temperatures averaged above normal but lows fell below zero the last half of the month. Snow provided cover for wheat, but made it difficult for cattle to graze stalks. Supplemental feeding is underway and feed supplies were adequate with cattle in good condition. The eastern third and southern tier of counties received well above normal precipitation while most of the west was below normal. Fertilizer was still being applied until mid month when rain and snow fell. Wheat conditions continue well below year ago levels.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Regional Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Nebraska/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/index

Weather Summary: The majority of the state saw temperatures average 1 to 5 degrees above normal during December. Topsoil temperatures ranged from 21 to 34 degrees during the last week of the month and in general were cooler in the central third of the state. The eastern third and southern tier of counties received from .7 to 2 inches of precipitation, while much of the remainder of the state received a half inch or less.

Field Crops Report: **Wheat** conditions statewide rated 15 percent very poor, 34 poor, 37 fair, 14 good, and 0 excellent, well below last year when 74 percent of the crop rated good or excellent. **Hay and forage** supplies rated 10 percent very short, 29 short, 61 adequate, and 0 surplus, well below a year ago when 96 percent was adequate to surplus.

Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report: **Cattle and Calves** condition rated 0 percent very poor, 2 poor, 28 fair, 64 good, and 6 excellent, well below last year's 93 percent good or excellent.

The following are comments from Nebraska's FSA County Executive Directors and County Extension Educators:

NORTHEAST

BOONE: Unseasonably warm and dry weather until the week of December 16 - then extreme cold and snow.

DIXON: Stubble fields are snow covered as of this last week.

KNOX: Cattle have done well grazing crop residues with minimal snow cover. It is currently snowing so that will change things. Conditions continue to be very dry.

THURSTON: Received some much needed moisture (snow) throughout the last couple of weeks.

CENTRAL

BUFFALO: Some fertilizer was still being applied up until it snowed last week. Cattle in stalk fields were fairing well, but the bitter cold is taking a toll. Older cows and those in poor stalk fields require some supplemental feed.

EAST CENTRAL

DODGE: What little wheat there is had a little shower (.25) of moisture with 3-4 inches of snow cover on top of that. Field work is done for the year. Now farm shows and getting seed orders are the main activities. A cold snap has hit the end of December but no livestock losses to speak of.

POLK: Major snowstorm December 19-20 brought 8 inches of blowing and drifting snow to the area. Ice is still a problem.

SARPY/DOUGLAS: Wet, uniform snow layer will improve moisture situation but will also increase hay usage for cattle.

SOUTH CENTRAL

FRANKLIN: Approximately 6 inches of snow fell on Dec 19th. It was a good wet snow. That is the first moisture we have received since Oct 13th (on that date we received an inch of rain). The drought continues. Wheat is dormant. Cattle are doing well on the stalks. Producers haven't fed much hay yet.

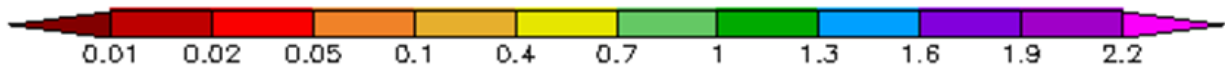
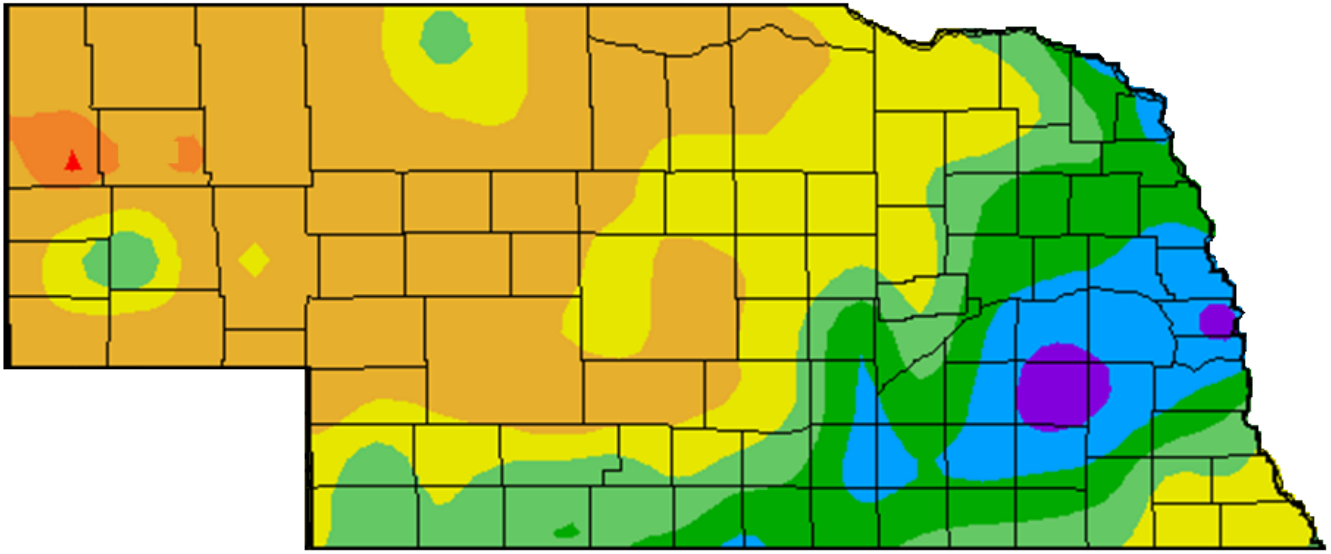
PHELPS: Snow yielded much needed moisture late this month. Snow cover on the wheat fields provide good cover. The open weather has helped to extend feed supplies. Corn stalk fields are still providing adequate feed even with the snow cover.

SOUTHEAST

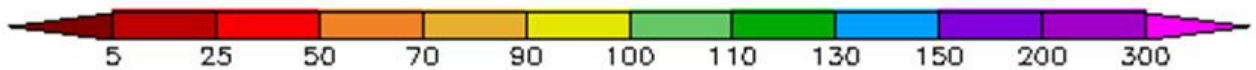
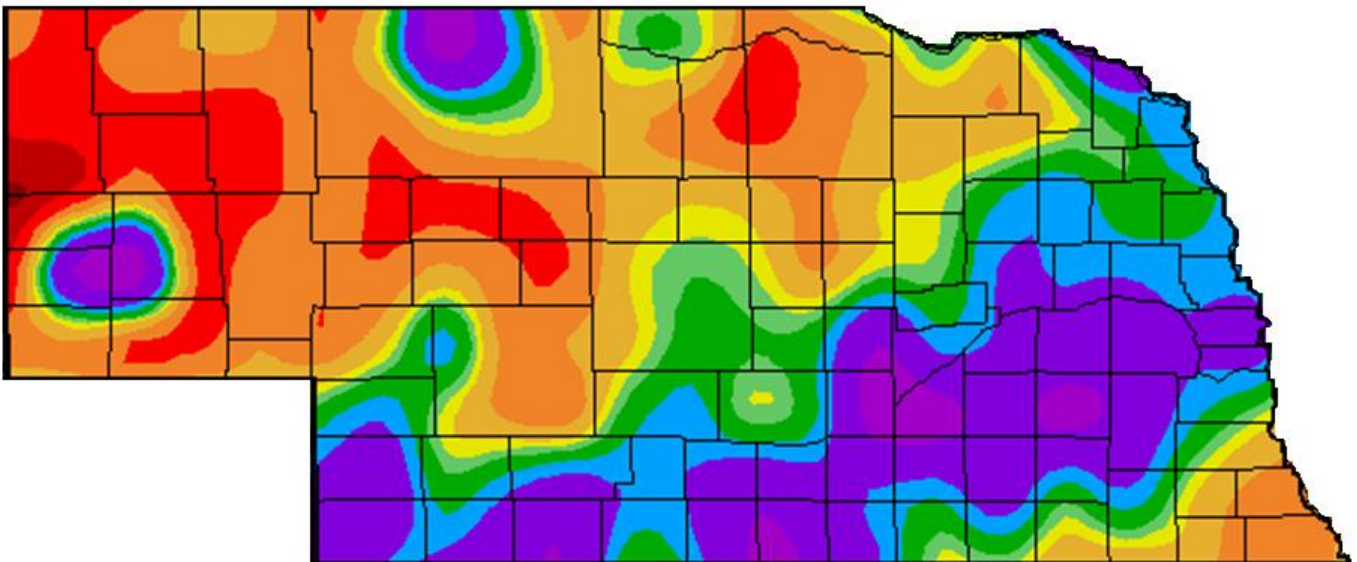
FILLMORE: Snow covered up the corn stalk feed source in the county so I would assume supplemental feeding is at full capacity.

THAYER: County received 1/2 to 3/4 of rain followed by 3 inches of snow.

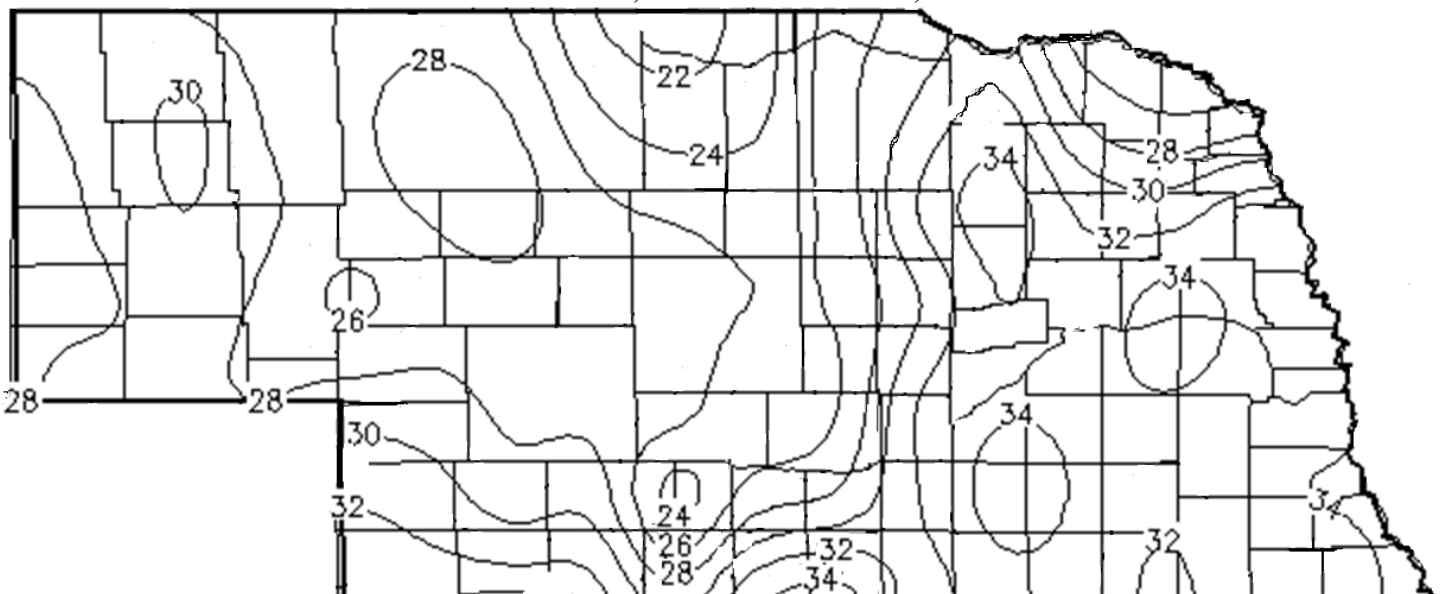
PRECIPITATION IN INCHES DECEMBER 1 – DECEMBER 30, 2012¹



PRECIPITATION AS PERCENT OF NORMAL FOR DECEMBER 1 – DECEMBER 30, 2012¹



SEVEN DAY AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT THE FOUR INCH DEPTH UNDER BARE SOIL
DECEMBER 24, 2012 – DECEMBER 30, 2012¹



¹ Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center and Nebraska State Climate Office